

***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

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FM LISBON

TO WHITE HOUSE

T O P S E C R E T/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY 181004Z DEC 73

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HAKTO 65 IMMEDIATE

FOR SCOWCROFT FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER

RE YOUR COMMENT ON THE SCHECTER ARTICLE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I SAW SCHECTER FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES EARLIER IN THE TRIP AND THAT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO WRITE BEFORE HE SAW ME WAS MUCH WORSE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO BUSINESS WHEN I MUST WORRY THAT EACH SUCCESS WILL PROVE TO BE A DISASTER IN TERMS OF MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WHERE THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF CONSTANT SUSPICION.

I WISH YOU WOULD PASS THE ABOVE TO HAIG AND ASK HIM WHETHER HE THINKS, IF I WERE NOW TO ANNOUNCE THAT I WILL BE LEAVING ON JULY 1, I COULD HAVE 6 QUIET MONTHS TO DO THE NATION'S BUSINESS. HAIG HAS MY PERMISSION TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HE WISH.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE

PSN:012413 RECALLED
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***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1973

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TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

BY WIRE

FOR: Secretary Kissinger

FROM: General Haig

Brent has shown me HAKTO 65. I believe we have far too much to do than to concern ourselves with a problem we have already given too much time to. It would be foolish to expect that the present difficulties would disappear and we will, I am sure, have to continue to cope with them and be sensitive to the issues surrounding them. However, nothing would be more self-defeating than to let these concerns dominate the conduct of affairs of overriding importance.

Adequate sensitivity to this issue is all that is needed in both the short and long-term, and we have always managed to handle this problem in stride.

The main concern here is the difficulty of your current talks and our awareness of the essentiality of providing you with all the support than can be mustered from this end. I am confident that you will succeed and will not permit meddling diversions to distract you from these tasks.

Your reporting messages have been superb and a great source of comfort at a difficult time. Warm personal regards.